

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN ADP-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 USIE-00 CPR-02 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 SS-14

PRS-01 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 SSO-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY DRAFTED FROM WHITE HOUSE TEXT

3/24/73 EXT 29403

APPROVED BY EA/ VN: RHWENZEL

EA: WHSULLIVAN (DRAFT)

SA/ VN/ OP: MHUNTINGTON (SUBS)

P: WJPORTER (SUBS)

S/ S- O: RW HT/ KAKURZE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 054970

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR ECON VS

SUBJECT: CONGRATULATORY LETTER ON LAND REFORM

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NIXON
TO PRESIDENT THIEU. BEGIN QTE:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR WARM
MESSAGE OF MARCH 20 WHICH DESCRIBED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
" LAND TO THE TILLER" PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED THE GRATITUDE
OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FOR OUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS GREAT
WORK OF SOCIAL REFORM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

WITH DEEP INTEREST AND SATISFACTION, I LEARNED FROM YOUR
LETTER THAT ON MARCH 26 YOUR COUNTRY WILL CELEBRATE THE
FULFILLMENT OF ITS THREE- YEAR GOAL OF REDISTRIBUTING TITLES
FOR ONE MILLION HECTARES OF LAND TO TENANT FARMERS UNDER
THE " LAND TO THE TILLER" PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM, I KNOW,
IS ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS AND FAR- REACHING LAND DIS-
TRIBUTION PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN BY ANY COUNTRY IN RECENT
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TIMES. IT WILL ULTIMATELY BENEFIT OVER ONE MILLION RURAL FAMILIES IN SOUTH VIET- NAM AND SHOULD VIRTUALLY ELIMINATE FARM TENANCY. THE FACT THAT THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN COMPLETED UNDER THE DIFFICULT WAR- TIME CONDITIONS OF THE

PAST THREE YEARS MAKES THE ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT MUCH MORE ADMIRABLE. THIS PROGRAM ALSO REPRESENTS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF CONCERN FOR AND RESPONSIVENESS TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE AND ENCOURAGES US TO LOOK WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE FUTURE OF YOUR COUNTRY AS IT PURSUES ITS GOALS OF A LASTING AND FRUITFUL PEACE.

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I CONGRATULATE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET- NAM ON THE SUCCESS OF THIS LAND REFORM ENDEAVOR. AMERICANS ARE PLEASED TO HAVE COOPERATED WITH VIETNAMESE IN THIS HISTORIC UNDERTAKING.

IN THE POST WAR PERIOD, WE LOOK FORWARD WITH EQUAL INTEREST TO JOINING YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN THE IMPORTANT TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION AND LONG- TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

SINCERELY, RICHARD NIXON END QUOTE.

2. WE ENCOURAGE THE GVN TO RELEASE THE EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES, AFTER WHICH WE WILL RELEASE THEM ON THIS END.
ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Event:
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